

# **DRAFT** Minutes

## Neighborhood Advisory Commission August 5, 2020



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, Virtual Meeting #3 using Microsoft Teams Platform

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty (via phone), Diane Harden, Jana Lynn Granillo, Stephanie Greenfield, Barb Harris, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky and Zoe Stein.

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Richelle Miller

**City Staff Present:** Braden Kay, Sustainability Director, [braden\\_kay@tempe.gov](mailto:braden_kay@tempe.gov); Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager

**Guests Present:** Councilmember Doreen Garlid

### **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Belec

### **Agenda Item 2 – Attendance Roll Call**

**Present:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty (via phone), Jana Lynn Granillo, Stephanie Greenfield, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe and Zoe Stein.

**Note:** Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky (Commissioners McLendon and Schugurensky were in a different virtual meeting room and joined meeting shortly after roll call vote and approval of meeting minutes)

**Absent:** Richelle Miller

### **Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment**

New Councilmember Doreen Garlid, a recent, prior member of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission, greeted NAC members and shared that name tags ordered for all commissions have arrived and are at City Hall. Members enthusiastically received this announcement and staff confirmed they will arrange for State of the Neighborhoods mug delivery, along with member name tags soon. Chair Belec and Assistant Chair Stein offered their assistance if needed.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Consideration of Minutes: June 3, 2020**

**Motion:** Commissioner Granillo made a motion to approve the June 3, 2020 minutes as presented.

**Second:** Commissioner Harden

**Result:** *The motion passed with a 10-0 vote*

**Commission Member Ayes: Present:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty (via phone), Jana Lynn Granillo, Stephanie Greenfield, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe and Zoe Stein.

**Commission Members Absent:** Richelle Miller, Michael McLendon (at time of vote), Daniel Schugurensky (at time of vote)

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Climate Action Plan 2021 Update**

Braden Kay, Sustainability Director, expressed his appreciation for the Neighborhood Advisory Commission's honest and direct feedback regarding the DRAFT plan helping to strengthen the document and to cultivate Council support. This was later followed by NAC's unanimous support of the City of Tempe's first Climate Action Plan at their November 2019 meeting. Tempe's climate action plan is the second in the state to Flagstaff.

Braden described this initial plan as a "training wheels plan" heavy on policy, adding that an update was always planned to follow soon after the adoption. He explained that ideally, residents want to be able to pick up a document and identify specific actions they can take. How do you adapt to climate changes already happening? Areas of particular focus in the 2021 Update will include carbon reduction (both in transportation and energy) and an extreme heat resilience component.

It's also important to note that the first plan utilized total carbon emissions data sourced from 2015, the most recent data available at that time. The 2021 Update will have 2020 data now being collected. Additionally, there has also been movement on the building and planned environment side which will be highlighted in the 2021 Update.

Residents, non-profits, educational institutions, businesses and city staff are all working together and forming empowering partnerships. These partnerships are making progress towards accomplishing ambitious goals related to energy, transportation, resilience to extreme heat, water waste, land use and the built environment. Multiple listening sessions have been taking place in recent weeks.

Commissioners had the following questions and comments for Braden:

Q. What has feedback been during listening sessions?

A. Lots of listening and trust building with community members including those neighbors who don't always have their voices heard. We are hearing strong desire to advance urban forestry, green building requirements and green infrastructure initiatives. Stop talking and start requiring in city code or incentivizing - more urgency, ownership and actions.

Q. What do you mean voices typically not heard? This group can help broaden and deepen neighborhood communication.

A. For example, we are not really listening to those experiencing homelessness. What should the future look like? How can we support you? This group has lots of voices and opinions that can be lifted.

Q. Some in our community may not even consider participating in a Climate Action activity or meeting. They may not be informed or passionate about this subject. How do we help inform them and bring them into this conversation?

A. There are ways to describe what it means to live in a livable city, we can bring people together and along. We can talk about livable neighborhoods, clean and affordable energy and efficient transportation systems. We do have a number of people in Tempe

who care deeply about these topics and are seeking action. We are hearing from more young people and we want to continue and expand those conversations. It's a balance and there are many different perspectives, it's important that we honor them.

Commissioner Granillo shared that her neighborhood successfully secured neighborhood grants to add trees in Meyer Park. They are tangible and can be seen and enjoyed. The grants are a great vehicle for this.

Q. How can we be bigger allies in this and what can NAC do to help deliver upon these sustainability goals?

Q. What do you need to put the Climate Action Plan into practice? Who is responsible for implementing? What is missing?

A. This Fall, we will have at least one more listening session. Hopefully, NAC can participate and encourage some neighbors to join us. Braden emphasized that the Office of Sustainability has one full-time person and relies on interns, volunteers and securing grants. The city can't create all of the movement, need to continue to partner and collaborate and get more and more working happening outside of the city. He noted that Portland now has voter initiatives but they are 40 years in and we are four years in.

We are building momentum and there will be more focus areas with specific collaborative and individual actions in the 2021 Update. Select one of these actions like Bike to Work, Orbit, community solar or resilient energy hubs to learn more about and help inform and champion action and investment. The Sustainability Commission had the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) come speak to them about MAG's Feasibility Study for Bus Rapid Transit.

Q. Where can I find this info.?

A. The Sustainable Tempe website is [www.tempe.gov/sustainability](http://www.tempe.gov/sustainability) and there are a number of sustainability resources there, including some specific to sustainability during covid-19. Please share these resources and help others stay home, healthy and connected.

Government websites are not overly intuitive or easy to navigate. Maybe consider using a short code – text sustainability and identify priority areas for action.

Q. What do you mean by social sustainability?

A. This is an umbrella term encompassing racial equity, health and wellness, intergenerational issues, beyond environmental - people issues. It's important that we make investments and commitments. Community and connection are very important, particularly during these unprecedented times.

Vice Chair Stein stated that we need to ensure asks are within the sphere of influence for the city and are not state or national level. Braden agreed that sharing information about what we can and cannot do is necessary, particularly when working with those new to civic engagement. Commissioner Granillo commented that in addition to younger people and students, older adults who are retired could be advocates or volunteers as well.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Equity in Action Update**

Coordinated and lead by the Offices of Sustainability and Strategic Management and Diversity, the Neighborhood Services Division and in partnership with Vitalyst Health Foundation, Equity in Action is designed to support Tempe in creating a more connected community, where diverse opinions are cultivated, heard, understood, and incorporated in decision-making.

This pilot program pays Social Justice Representatives (individuals as well as those from social justice non-profits) for their participation in an advisory board. This participation will help inform and craft a more equitable engagement framework ensuring that underrepresented residents have a voice in city decision-making and public engagement processes. Inspired by similar efforts in the cities of Portland and Providence, Tempe's Equity in Action pilot program is the first government equitable engagement pilot project in Arizona. Lessons learned through this work will be shared by Vitalyst Health Foundation with other Arizona cities to expand and encourage bringing an equity lens to decision making across the state.

The ten selected Social Justice Leaders have been meeting monthly (virtually) from March to June and most recently every other week. They are discussing and exploring ways to foster equity and encourage more engagement and participation from their communities. There is \$50,000. available in funding to launch Social Justice Leaders pilot projects. The framework for pilot projects will be identified this Fall and could include implementation of ideas like childcare at public meetings and racial equity training. Braden offered to come back to a future NAC meeting with an Equity in Action Board Representative to share more information as available.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – State of the Neighborhoods and Awards 2020 Wrap Up**

Staff requested feedback while the virtual State of the Neighborhoods & Awards event and in-person Honoree Caravan was “still fresh” to assist with future events planning. Members shared the following comments:

- Caravan was really fun! First day that felt like a “normal” day since March.
- One route had a few hiccups with directions.
- The Mayor's vehicle didn't follow provided directions.
- The virtual event was really nice and short.
- Virtual event was well attended and might be more accessible for people
- State of the Neighborhoods speech was shorter and more direct
- Liked all the feedback in the chat
- No tabling or learning sessions
- Our theme of connecting was achieved!
- One caravan route included those Arts and Culture commissioners present in some of the honoree pictures too, nice touch and good way to connect those selecting the specific award recipients with the honorees.
- Liked the impromptu neighborhood parties, can be built upon
- Caravan was a blast, festive and fun! Our route even had honks from well wishers who saw signs on vehicles, enjoyed seeing award winners with their neighbors.
- Wearing multiple hats that day – really appreciated the caravan visit to my home – very fun.
- Missed cartel cold brew
- Liked Streamyard platform, recognition moved very quickly, maybe just a little slower and a little more background information. Overall, very good.

Chair Belec requested that any commission members who have not had the opportunity to watch the Virtual State of the Neighborhoods event, take the time to do so. They can then offer their feedback on the virtual event. Staff will provide the link to everyone.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Covid-19 Update**

A brief update was provided. Using the wastewater collection data described at the June meeting, an outreach effort was organized for portions of the area along Apache Boulevard between Rural and Smith Roads. This area with many low income and non-English speaking residents was identified as one that could benefit from additional attention. Prepared bags specific to both area businesses and residents were provided. Bags included items like mask requirement fliers for posting and floor stickers (for businesses) and fact sheets, resources and donated masks from Mask Makers (for residents). There was also a Tempe Community Action Agency component with residents receiving fact sheets, resources and Mask Maker donated masks along with their food bags.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Commission business - 2020 Retreat Planning identification of potential agenda items and date selection**

To facilitate the annual retreat and to avoid Fall Break conflicts and too long of a gap between meetings, staff and Chair Belec proposed the following schedule:

**Wednesday, September 2** – Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, September 30** – Regular Meeting (replaces regular Oct. meeting)

**Saturday, October 17** (morning) – Annual Retreat -likely virtual only or in-person with virtual component

Commission member were asked to check dates against their calendars and advise staff of any conflicts. Suggested potential retreat topics included communication, communication methods, strategic planning, Right to Breathe initiative and invite Mayor Woods to retreat or future meeting to share his vision. Commissioner Harden offered to provide a communications tree visual. Chair Belec encouraged members to email staff with any additional agenda ideas and suggestions.

**Agenda Item 10 - Summary of Current Events by Zip Code Areas** – Due to meeting time constraints, there were no zip code announcements. Chair Belec may move around the placement of this agenda item on future agendas to facilitate time for sharing.

### **Agenda Item 11 – Proposed Future Agenda Items**

See Agenda Item 9

### **Agenda Item 12 - Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas